

According to the Director of Fisheries, Burma (U Tint Hlaing) and Head of the Marine Biology Section, Moulmein College, Moulmein (U Kyaw Myint) who have tasted the flesh cooked in different ways, the flesh is said to be tender and of good eating. The fat smells of cod liver oil, like many of the other marine mammals. The fat melts at 72°C.

As in the Gulf of Mannar (Prater 1965, BOOK OF INDIAN ANIMALS: 316) the flesh is highly esteemed by the villagers from Arakan coast. They say the flesh is better than pork.

25, INYA MYAING ROAD,
RANGOON,
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February 26, 1970.

TUN YIN

4. STRANDING OF FOUR WHALES ALONG GOA COAST BETWEEN DECEMBER 1968 AND APRIL, 1970

This paper records the stranding of four specimens of baleen whales along Goa coast during a period of 16 months. I have not seen stranded whales along Goa coast between August 1964 to November 1968 and enquiries made at various fish landing centres along the coast reveal that there have been very few occasions when whales have been washed ashore during the last 50 years. The months when the four specimens of whale were stranded along Goa coast are listed below:

Month	Place	Distance from Panaji and direction	Length
December 1968	Mandrem	20 Km. North	15·00 metres
February 1969	Baina	12 Km. South	14·85 "
January 1970	Canacona	30 Km. South	13·85 "
April 1970	Candolim	10 Km. North	13·50 "

The stranding at Candolim was on first April, 1970, Candolim is a fishing village about 12 Km. north of Panaji. The specimen was seen on 3 April 1970, when putrefication had already reached an advanced stage. Since it was not possible to drag the whale to Panaji it was decided to bury it at Candolim for extracting its skeleton for keeping at the National Institute of Oceanography at Panaji. Its

weight was estimated to be approximately 25 tons. The following measurements of the specimen were taken:

Total length (tip of lower jaw to tip of flukes)	.. 13.50 m.
Length from base of flipper to tip of lower jaw	.. 4.00 "
Length of flipper	.. 1.55 "
Ratio of flipper length to total length	.. 1:9:1
Total number of ventral grooves	.. 67

The ventral grooves extended far behind the flipper reaching as far as the anal region.

The exact coloration could not be ascertained because of the decomposed nature of the specimen. However, on the shoulder region the skin was dark grey whereas on the ventral side near the flippers it was white. Flippers were pale black in colour and the frayed baleen plates were blackish grey and fluke greyish blue in colour. Nasal opening was triangular.

The stomach was everted indicating that the specimen had vomited prior to death. The sex could not be determined. However, the specimen appeared to be immature.

The ratio of flipper length to the total length of the specimen was 1:9 which identifies it as *Balaenoptera physalus*.

All the four specimens are approximately of the same length which suggests that they belong to the same year class which probably migrate in the cold season from November to April along the coast.

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May 1, 1970.

RAJINDER M. DHAWAN

5. RECORD OF THE HIMALAYAN MONAL *LOPHOPHORUS IMPEJANUS* (LATHAM) IN BURMA

(With a map)

Three rare pheasants, two cocks and a hen arrived at the Zoological Gardens, Rangoon, from Putao on 27 June 1969. They were identified as the Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus*. No mention of the presence of this monal in Burma, is made in Smythies BIRDS OF BURMA. I sent photographs to Mr. Philip Wayre, Hon.